





# IAR – Pioneer Award Users Guide

# **Table of Contents**

INTRODUCTION	5
Overview Phase 2 – Reviewing Applications	<b>5</b> 5
ACCESSING THE PIONEER AWARD WEB SITE	5
Passwords	6
Logging In Session Time Out	<b>6</b> 7
Logging Out	7
Forgotten Password	8
NAVIGATION MENU	8
Home Menu	9
Administration Menu Delegate PPE Edit Change Passwords Verify NIH Support	9 10 10 11
Personal Profile Menu Personal Information Race/Ethnicity Employments Reviewer Address Residential Address Degrees Publications	11 12 13 14 17 18 19 22
IAR	25
Links	25
Help	25
REVIEWER SCORING	25
Viewing Meetings	26
Viewing Applications  Top 4 Designation  Viewing a Particular Application  Sorting Investigators  Sorting Scores	27 28 28 28 28

Scoring Applications	29
Deleting Scores/Comments	30

# **Table of Figures**

Figure 1	Logging into the eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001)	6
Figure 2	eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001)	7
Figure 3	Session Time Out Dialog	
Figure 4	Reset Password Screen (FRW0002)	8
Figure 5	Navigation Menu	9
Figure 6	Account Administration Screen	
Figure 7	Delegate PPF Edit Access Screen (ESP7029)	10
Figure 8	Change Password Screen (ADM1013)	11
Figure 9	Personal Profile Screen (PPF6010)	12
Figure 10	Personal Information Screen (PPF6008)	13
Figure 11	Race/Ethnicity Screen (PPF6011)	14
Figure 12	Employment List Screen (PPF6006)	15
Figure 13	Add Employment Screen (PPF6003)	15
Figure 14	Employment Edit Screen (PPF6005)	16
Figure 15	Delete Employment Screen (PPF6004)	17
Figure 16	Reviewer Address Screen (PPF6016)	18
Figure 17	Residential Address Screen (PPF6016)	19
Figure 18	Degrees Screen (PPF6002)	20
Figure 19	Add New Degree Screen (PPF6000)	20
Figure 20	Degree Details Screen (PPF6001)	21
Figure 21	Delete Degree Screen (PPF6013)	22
Figure 22	List of Publications Screen (6015)	
Figure 23	Add New Publication Screen (PPF6000)	23
Figure 24	Publication Details Screen ()	24
Figure 25	Delete Publication Screen ()	25
Figure 26	List of Meetings Screen (IAR0001)	27
Figure 28	List of Applications Screen (IAR0013)	27
Figure 29	Top 4 Designation Example	28
Figure 30	Submit and Edit Scores Screen (IAR0014)	29

# Introduction

## **Overview**

The NIH Director's Pioneer Award (NDPA) program is a recently established research program designed to identify and fund innovative investigators in the field of high risk/high impact research. Once Phase 1 has ended and the selected nominee has successfully submitted his/her application for review, it is the job of the reviewers in Phase 2 to judge the scientific merit of these applications.

## Phase 2 – Reviewing Applications

Each application package will be assigned to three outside reviewers. These individuals may include a sub-set of those who participated in review of the nominees. At least one of the three reviewers will be selected by relevant research area (i.e., quantitative and mathematical biology; instrumentation and engineering; molecular and cellular biology; physiological and integrative systems; behavioral & social sciences; pathogenesis & epidemiology; clinical research). The remaining reviewers may be assigned independent of the research area. Each reviewer will be asked to review the entire application package, judging the extent to which the applicant demonstrates the qualities expected of the recipient of the NDPA as well as an assessment of the candidate's ability to articulate a vision of the critical questions in a field of biomedicine and his/her prospective role in addressing these questions. The evaluators will use a point scale system for ranking and will be asked to identify and justify their top four applicants. Approximately 20 of the top ranking applicants will be invited to the NIH for interviews.

# Accessing the Pioneer Award Web Site

The Pioneer Award web site is accessed through the Internet Assisted Review (IAR) portal of NIH eRA Commons, a web-based system that allows principal investigators (PIs) and central research administration offices to communicate and send information electronically.

Any registered user with a Web browser (Internet Explorer 5.01 or greater or Netscape 4.7 or greater) and Internet access can log in. Other Web browsers are also supported, but some functionality may be lost.

## **Passwords**

Reviewers will be able to log in to NIH eRA Commons and access Pioneer Award web features once they have received their Pioneer Award username and password. The Pioneer Award username and password are supplied to reviewers in the Pioneer Award Reviewer acceptance letter.

# **Logging In**

To log into the Pioneer Award web site:

1. In your Web browser's Address field, enter the following URL: <a href="https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/">https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/</a>. Press **Enter**. The eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001) opens (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Logging into the eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001)

- 2. In the **Username** field, type your Pioneer Award username.
- 3. In the **Password** field, type your Pioneer Award password.
- 4. Click **Login**. You are now logged into the eRA Commons Home Page opens (COM0001) (Figure 2).



Figure 2 eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001)

**NOTE:** If you enter an incorrect username or password, click **Reset** to reset your login selections.

#### **Session Time Out**

After a certain time period of user inactiveness, the IAR system will terminate the user's connection to the eRA Commons web site. This is a safety precaution to prevent unauthorized access to the Pioneer Award system. When the user's connection is terminated, a dialog message will appear stating the user's session has timed out and the user will need to re-login (Figure 3).

Click **OK** to return to the eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001).



Figure 3 Session Time Out Dialog

**NOTE:** It is possible that unsaved data may be lost during session time out.

# **Logging Out**

➤ To log out of Pioneer Awards, click the **Log-out** link located in the top right corner located on all pages. The eRA Commons Home Page opens (COM0001) (Figure 1).

# **Forgotten Password**

If you forget or misplace your password, you may request to have your password emailed to you.

To request your password:

1. Click the **Forgot Password?** link on the eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001) (Figure 1). The Reset Password screen (FRW0002) opens, as shown in Figure 4.

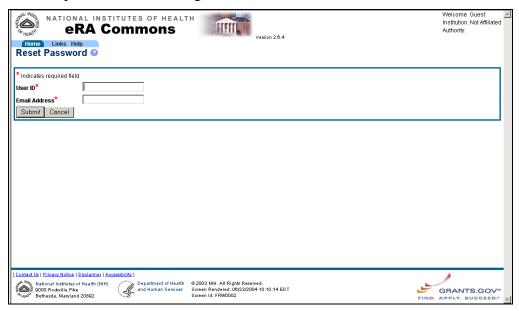


Figure 4 Reset Password Screen (FRW0002)

- 2. Enter your Pioneer Award user ID in the **User ID** text field. This is a required field.
- 3. Enter your official Pioneer Award email address in the **Email** Address **text field**. This is also a required field.
- 4. Click **Submit**. Your password will be mailed to you shortly.

# **Navigation Menu**

After logging into the eRA Commons web site, a blue navigation menu appears to assist the user in accessing the various functions of IAR (Figure 5). The navigation menu links are **Home**, **Administration**, **Personal Profile**, **IAR**, **Links**, and **Help**. Clicking the navigation links will open sub-menus enabling further user functions and actions.

**NOTE:** Various sub-menus are role based and are visible only to those users with appropriate privileges.



Figure 5 Navigation Menu

## **Home Menu**

The **Home** link is the default link of the navigation menu and the eRA Commons Home Page (COM0001) (Figure 2). When the user logs into eRA Commons, the eRA Commons Home Page opens (COM0001).

## **Administration Menu**

The **Administration** menu on the Account Administration screen (ADM1010), shown in Figure 6, allows users to perform system and user accounts maintenance by utilizing the various **Administration** sub-menus.

To view the Administration sub-menus:

- 1. From the Account Administration screen (ADM1010), click the **Administration** link. The **Accounts** sub-menu opens.
- Click the Accounts link to further view the Accounts sub-menu links (Figure 6). The Account sub-menu links are Delegate PPE Edit, Change Passwords, and Verify NIH Support.



Figure 6 Account Administration Screen (ADM1010)

## **Delegate PPE Edit**

Click the **Delegate PPE Edit** link to view the Delegate PPE Edit screen (ESP7029), as shown in Figure 7. The **Delegate PPF Edit** function allows a user in eRA Commons to grant authority to another user to update their profile information.

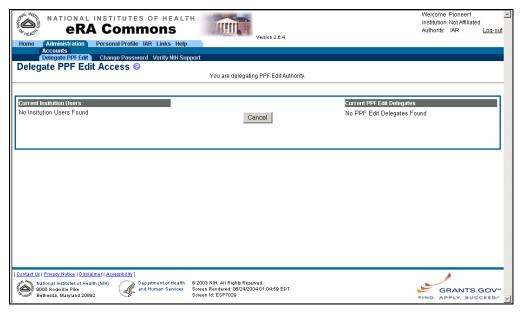


Figure 7 Delegate PPF Edit Access Screen (ESP7029)

## **Change Passwords**

Click the **Change Passwords** link to view the Change Password screen (ADM1013). The Change Password screen (ADM1013) allows the user to change the Pioneer Award system supplied password.

Passwords must follow certain formatting guidelines in order to be successfully changed. The guidelines are as follows

- Passwords must be at least eight (8) non-blank characters in length.
- Passwords must contain a mixture of letters, numbers and special characters: ! # \$ % \* - \_ = + < >.
- The first and last characters cannot be numbers.
- Passwords cannot contain username.
- Passwords cannot be reused within one (1) year.

**NOTE:** Click the **eRA Password Policy** link to further view password guidelines.

#### Changing Passwords

To change your password:

- 1. Click the **Administration** link from the navigation menu. The **Accounts** sub-menu appears.
- 2. Click the **Change Password** link. The Change Password screen (ADM1013) opens.



Figure 8 Change Password Screen (ADM1013)

- 3. Enter your existing password in the **Old Password** text field. This is a required field.
- 4. Enter your new password in the **New Password** text field. This is a required field.
- 5. Retype your new password in the **Retype New Password** text field.
- 6. Click **Submit**. A confirmation message is displayed.

# **Verify NIH Support**

Click the **Verify NIH Support** link to view the Verify NIH Support screen.

## **Personal Profile Menu**

The **Personal Profile** menu provides the option for users to view and edit their personal information that is recorded by the NIH.

To view the Personal Profile sub-menus:

1. From the Personal Profile screen (PPF6010), click the **Personal Profile** link to view the **Personal Profile** sub-menus, as shown in Figure 9.



Figure 9 Personal Profile Screen (PPF6010)

2. Click the desired sub-menu that you wish to view. The sub-menu choices are **Personal Information**, **Race/Ethnicity**, **Employments**, **Reviewer Address**, **Residential Address**, **Degrees**, and **Publications**.

#### **Personal Information**

Click the **Personal Information** link to open the Personal Information screen (PPF6008). The Personal Information screen (PPF6008) allows the user to view and edit their personal information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

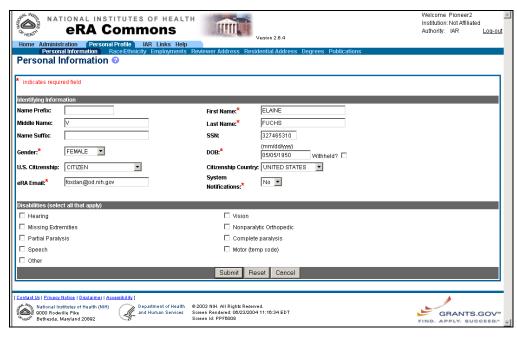


Figure 10 Personal Information Screen (PPF6008)

#### **Editing Personal Information**

To make changes to your personal information:

- 1. In the **Identifying Information** section, enter text in the desired text fields, and/or check the appropriate checkboxes. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 2. In the **Disabilities** section, check the appropriate checkboxes if desired.
- 3. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

# Race/Ethnicity

Click the **Race/Ethnicity** link to open the Race/Ethnicity screen (PPF6011). The Race/Ethnicity screen (PPF6011) allows the user to view and edit their race/ethnicity information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

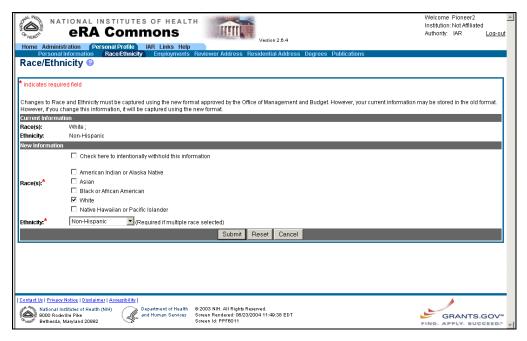


Figure 11 Race/Ethnicity Screen (PPF6011)

#### Editing Race/Ethnicity

To make changes to your race/ethnicity information:

- 1. In the **New Information** section, check the appropriate **Race(s)** checkbox(es). You may select more than one selection. This is a required field.
- 2. If you selected more than one **Race(s)** selection, select a value from the **Ethnicity** drop-down list. If you selected more than one **Race(s)** selection, this is a required field.
- 3. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

## **Employments**

Click the **Employments** link to open the Employment List screen (PPF6006). The Employment List screen (PPF6006) allows the user to view and edit their employment information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

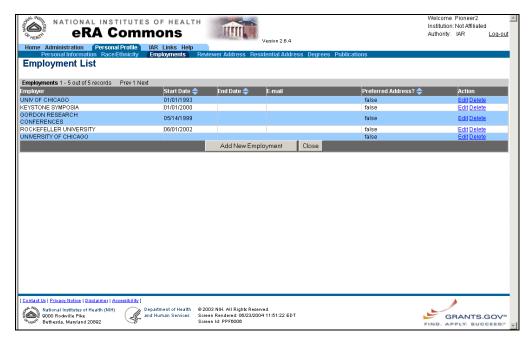


Figure 12 Employment List Screen (PPF6006)

#### Adding a New Employment Record

To add a new employment record:

1. Click **Add New Employment** to open the Add New Employment screen (PPF6003) as shown in Figure 13.

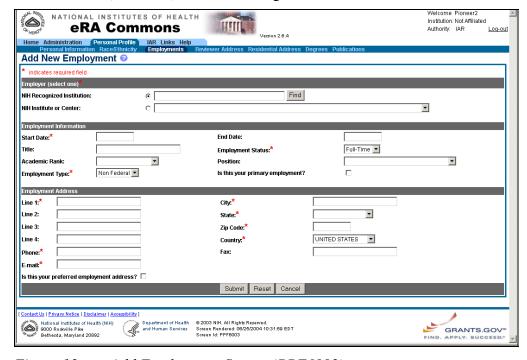


Figure 13 Add Employment Screen (PPF6003)

- 2. Enter an institution or select an NIH institution or center in the **Employer** section. This is a required section.
- 3. In the **Employment Information** and **Employment Address** sections, enter text in the appropriate text fields, and
- 4. Select values in the appropriate drop-down menus. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 5. Check the appropriate checkboxes if desired.
- 6. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Editing Employment Information**

To edit your employment information:

1. Click the **Edit** link for the employment record you wish to edit. The Employment Edit screen (PPF6005) opens, as shown in Figure 14.

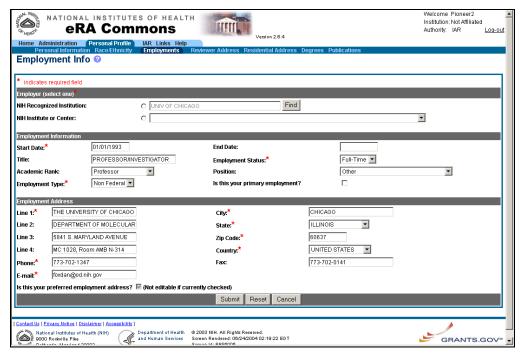


Figure 14 Employment Edit Screen (PPF6005)

- 1. To change your employer information, search for a new institution or select a NIH institution or center in the **Employer** section.
- 2. In the **Employment Information** and **Employment Address** sections, edit the text in the appropriate text fields, and/or
- 3. Select the correct values in the drop-down menus. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 4. Check the appropriate checkboxes if desired.

5. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Deleting Employment Entries**

To delete an employment entry:

1. From the Employment List screen (PPF6006) (Figure 12), click the **Delete** link for the employment record you wish to delete. The Delete Employment screen (PPF6004) opens for the selected record, as shown in Figure 15.



Figure 15 Delete Employment Screen (PPF6004)

2. Confirm that this is the record you wish to delete. If correct, click **Delete**. If not, click **Cancel** to return to the Employment List screen (PPF6006).

#### **Reviewer Address**

Click the **Reviewer Address** link to open the Reviewer Address screen (PPF6016), as shown in Figure 16. The Reviewer Address screen (PPF6016) allows the user to view and edit their reviewer address information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

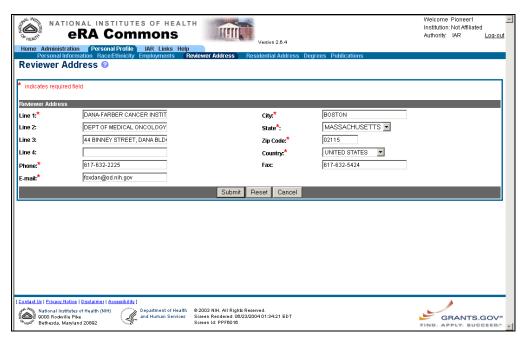


Figure 16 Reviewer Address Screen (PPF6016)

#### Editing Reviewer Addresses

To make changes to your reviewer address information:

- 1. Enter text in the desired text fields, and/or select values from the drop-down lists. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 2. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Residential Address**

Click the **Residential Address** link to open the Residential Address screen (PPF6016), as shown in Figure 17. The Residential Address screen (PPF6016) allows the user to view and edit their residential address information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

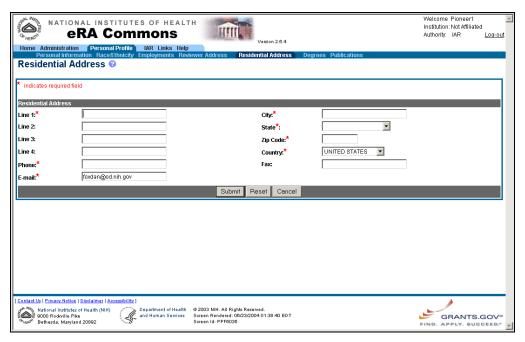


Figure 17 Residential Address Screen (PPF6016)

#### Editing Residential Addresses

To make changes to your residential address information:

- 1. Enter text in the desired text fields, and/or select values from the drop-down lists. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 2. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

## **Degrees**

Click the **Degrees** link to open the Degrees screen (PPF6002), as shown in Figure 18. The Degrees screen (PPF6002) allows the user to view and edit their academic information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system. Fields that are marked with a red asterisk are required fields.

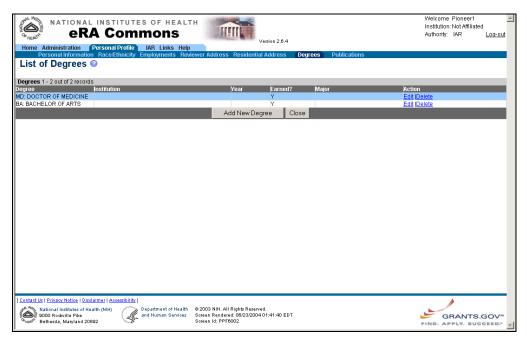


Figure 18 Degrees Screen (PPF6002)

#### Adding a New Degree Record

To add a new degree record:

1. From the Degrees screen (PPF6002), click **Add New Degree** to open the Add New Degree screen (PPF600), as shown in Figure 19.



Figure 19 Add New Degree Screen (PPF6000)

2. Select a degree name from the **Degree Name** drop-down menu. This is a required section.

- 3. Enter text in the appropriate text fields, and
- 4. Check **Yes** or **No** in the **Degree Earned** radio buttons. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 5. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Editing Degree Information**

To edit your degree information:

1. From the Degrees screen (PPF6002) (Figure 18), click the **Edit** link in the **Action** column for the degree record you wish to edit. The Degree Details screen (PPF6001) opens, as shown in Figure 20.

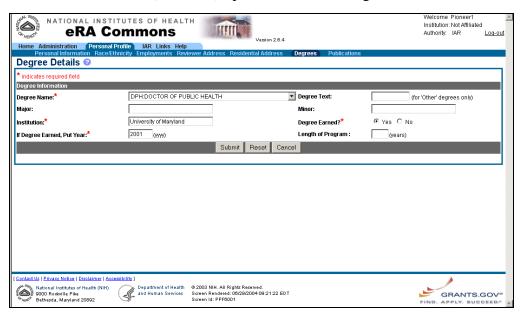


Figure 20 Degree Details Screen (PPF6001)

- 2. Edit your degree information, if desired. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 3. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### Deleting Degree Entries

To delete a degree entry:

1. From the Degrees screen (PPF6002) (Figure 18), click the **Delete** link in the **Action** column for the degree record you wish to delete. The Delete Degree screen (PPF6013) opens for the selected record, as shown in Figure 21.



Figure 21 Delete Degree Screen (PPF6013)

2. Confirm that this is the record you wish to delete. If correct, click **Delete**. If not, click **Cancel** to return to the Degrees screen (PPF6002).

#### **Publications**

Click the **Publications** link to open the List of Publications screen (6015), as shown in Figure 22. The List of Publications screen (6015) allows the user to view and edit their publication information as it is recorded by the eRA Commons system.



Figure 22 List of Publications Screen (6015)

#### Adding a New Publications Record

To add a new publication record:

1. From the List of Publications screen (6015), click **Add New Publication** to open the Add New Publication screen (PPF600), as shown in Figure 23.

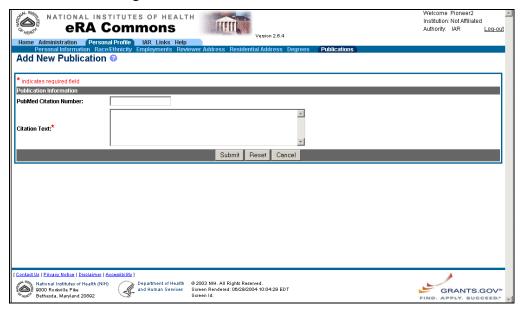


Figure 23 Add New Publication Screen (PPF6000)

- 2. Enter the Publication Citation Number in the **Publication Citation Number** text field.
- 3. Enter Citation Text in the **Citation Text** textbox. This is a required field.
- 4. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Editing Publication Information**

To edit your publication information:

1. From the List of Publications screen (6015) (Figure 22), click the **Edit** link in the **Action** column for the publication record you wish to edit. The Publication Details screen opens, as shown in Figure 24.



Figure 24 Publication Details Screen

- 2. Edit your publication information, if desired. Fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields.
- 3. Click **Submit** to enter your changes into the system. A confirmation message is displayed.

#### **Deleting Publication Entries**

To delete a publication entry:

1. From the List of Publications screen (6015) (Figure 22), click the **Delete** link in the **Action** column for the publication record you wish to delete. The Delete Publication screen opens for the selected record, as shown in Figure 25.



Figure 25 Delete Publication Screen

2. Confirm that this is the record you wish to delete. If correct, click **Delete**. If not, click **Cancel** to return to the List of Publications screen (6015).

## **IAR**

The IAR menu provides the option for users to view Pioneer Award meetings and to view and score Pioneer Award applications. For detailed information regarding using the IAR menu, please see the **Reviewer Scoring** section.

## Links

The **Links** menu provides the option for users to view relevant links to the eRA Commons web site.

# Help

The **Help** menu provides the option for users to access the eRA Commons online help system.

# **Reviewer Scoring**

As a reviewer, you will be evaluating the applicant's essays, letters of reference, and the example of the applicant's most important scientific contribution for evidence on how well the applicant fulfills the three following criteria:

- Innovation/creativity (e.g., Does the applicant display evidence of scientific creativity? Does she/he initiate new areas of, approaches to, scientific research? Is the applicant truly visionary in his/her thinking? Does the applicant think in complex, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary ways?)
- Intrinsic motivation/enthusiasm/intellectual energy (e.g., is the applicant willing to take scientific risks and show persistence in the face of adversity? Is the applicant comfortable with uncertainty (i.e., able to see gray areas as opportunities for new insights)? Is the applicant able to move into new areas that present an opportunity to solve a problem or broadly expand the knowledge base? Is the applicant intellectually independent and tenacious? Is the applicant able to make scientific leaps and change the current paradigms of behavioral and biomedical research?
- Potential for or actual scientific leadership; evidence of, or potential for, effective communication/educator skills. (e.g., Does the applicant have the ability to communicate the impact of her/his work? Has the applicant shown the ability (or potential) to bring together diverse teams of scientists; to inspire with his or her scientific vision and lead others; to serve as a mentor or role model?).

As a reviewer, your evaluation of each applicant will consist of:

- Rating the applicants assigned to you on each of the three criteria above, using a 7-point scale for each criterion with 7 representing the best and most outstanding one or two candidates, 4 representing excellent and impressive, but not among the very best, and 1 indicating good but not especially outstanding. Intermediate numbers allow for intermediate evaluations. The full scale should be used to distinguish among the applicants.
- Provide an overall assessment, again on a 7-point scale, weighting the three criteria as you deem appropriate, to indicate the extent to which the candidate embodies the characteristics of a scientific pioneer.

# **Viewing Meetings**

After logging into NIH eRA Commons, click **IAR** from the navigation menu to open the List of Meetings screen (IAR0001), shown in Figure 26. The List of Meetings screen (IAR0001) will present all of the meetings assigned to your reviewer role, both Pioneer and non-Pioneer Award meetings.

For Pioneer Award meetings, the List of Meetings screen (IAR0001) displays information relating to meeting name, meeting date, SRA name, date of evaluation, and action.

> To view a specific meeting's applications list, click the **List of Applications** link from the **Action** column.



Figure 26 List of Meetings Screen (IAR0001)

# **Viewing Applications**

Click the **List of Applications** link from the List of Meeting (IAR0001) screen to open the List of Applications screen (IAR0013), as shown in Figure 27. The List of Applications screen (IAR0013) displays information about the applications in the meeting (**Top 4 Designation**, **Application**, **Investigator**, **Title**, **Scores**, and **Action**) in addition to providing access to submitting and deleting scores and comments.



Figure 27 List of Applications Screen (IAR0013)

### **Top 4 Designation**

From the List of Applications screen (IAR0013), reviewers are able to assign select applications with the Top 4 Designation. The Top 4 Designation allows reviewers to select their favorite four applications from the List of Applications screen (IAR0013). This designation can be helpful when there are several applications that have an identical score, and the reviewer wishes to single out one or more of the applications for special consideration.

To designate an application as a Top 4 application:

- 1. From the List of Applications screen (IAR0013), click **Designate** to designate the desired application as a Top 4 application.
- 2. The application will now have a Top 4 icon attached to it. Click **Clear** if you wish to remove the Top 4 Designation from the application.



Figure 28 Top 4 Designation Example

# **Viewing a Particular Application**

➤ To view the details of a particular application from the List of Applications screen (IAR0013), click the application number link from the **Application** column.

## **Sorting Investigators**

> To sort the list of investigators from the List of Applications screen (IAR0013) in ascending order, click the **Investigator** column header.

## **Sorting Scores**

To sort a column of scores from the List of Applications screen (IAR0013), click any of the four numeric column headers (1, 2, 3 and 4).

# **Scoring Applications**

Pioneer Award reviewers are responsible for the scoring of the nominees' applications. This scoring of the nominees' applications is accomplished through the following set of scores:

- Innovation/Creativity
- Intrinsic Motivation / Enthusiasm / Intellectual Energy
- Potential for Scientific Leadership
- Overall Evaluation

Scores for Pioneer Award applications are assigned values between 1 and 7, with 7 being the highest score and 1 the lowest score. In addition to these scores, the reviewer may also submit an optional comment to briefly explain the rationale in why a particular score was awarded (see **Reviewer Scoring** for further information).

#### Scoring Pioneer Award Applications

To score a Pioneer Award application:

- 1. Select an application to be scored from the List of Applications screen by clicking **Submit/Edit**.
- 2. The Submit/Edit Scores screen (IAR0014) opens, shown in Figure 29.

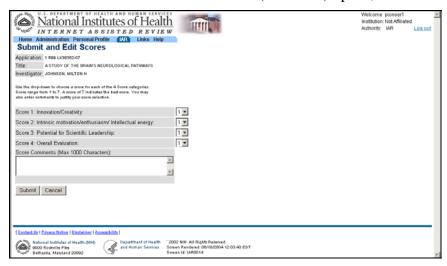


Figure 29 Submit and Edit Scores Screen (IAR0014)

- 3. From the drop-down menu to the right of each score set, select a numerical score value that you wish to assign to the score set.
- 4. If desired, briefly explain your scoring rationale in the **Score Comments** text box. The maximum character limit is 1000 characters.
- 5. To submit your scores, click **Submit**. If you wish to cancel the scoring, click **Cancel**.

- 6. Once scores have been successfully submitted, the Submit/Edit Scores screen (IAR0014) will refresh and will display the message: "Scores/Comments successfully submitted".
- 7. Click the **Back to List of Applications** link to return to the List of Applications screen (IAR0013).

# **Deleting Scores/Comments**

The review is able to delete scores/comments through the **Delete** link on the Submit/Edit Scores screen (IAR0014). However, this function is only available for scores/comments that have previously been submitted.

#### **Deleting Scores/Comments**

To delete a score/comment:

- 1. Select an application whose scores/comments are to be deleted from the List of Applications screen (IAR0013) by clicking **Submit/Edit**.
- The Submit/Edit Scores screen (IAR0014) opens. Click the **Delete** link.
- 3. A confirmation screen appears confirming the delete request. Click **Continue** to continue deleting the scores, or click **Cancel** the cancel deleting the scores.